

Conditional Sentences 2:

The First Conditional = It may well happen

The First Conditional describes real possibility. We are talking about the future. We are thinking about a particular condition or situation in the future, and the result of this condition. There is a real possibility that this condition will happen. For example, it is morning. You are at home. You plan to play tennis this afternoon. But there are some clouds in the sky. Imagine that it rains. What will you do?

- | IF | condition | result |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| | present simple | WILL + main verb |
| • If | it rains, | I will stay at home. |

Notice that we are thinking about a **future** condition. It is not raining yet. But the sky is cloudy and you think that it could rain. We use the present simple tense to talk about the possible future condition. We use WILL + main verb to talk about the possible future result. The important thing about the first conditional is that **there is a real possibility that the condition will happen.**

Here are some more examples:

- If I see Mary, I will tell her.
 - I will tell Mary if I see her.
- If Tara is free tomorrow, he will invite her.
 - He will invite Tara if she is free tomorrow.
- If they do not pass their exam, their teacher will be sad.
 - Their teacher will be sad if they do not pass their exam.
- If it rains tomorrow, will you stay at home?
 - Will you stay at home if it rains tomorrow?
- If it rains tomorrow, what will you do?
 - What will you do if it rains tomorrow?

If the IF clause comes first, a comma is usually used. If the IF clause comes second, there is no need for a comma.

Sometimes, we use **shall**, **can**, or **may** instead of **will**, for example:

- If you are good today, you **can** watch TV tonight.

There are no interactive exercises for this section